General Assembly

Distr.: General
25 April 2002

Fifty-sixth session
Agenda item 121

Resolution adopted by the General Assembly

[*on the report of the Fifth Committee (A/56/734/Add.1)*]

56/279. Report of the Joint Inspection Unit on the United Nations system common services at Geneva

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 54/255 of 7 April 2000,

Having considered the report of the Joint Inspection Unit entitled "United Nations system common services at Geneva, part II: Case studies (ICC, JMS, TES, DPS, JPS)",[1] and the note by the Secretary-General[2] transmitting his comments and those of the Administrative Committee on Coordination[3] thereon,

Having also considered the report of the Secretary-General[4] submitted pursuant to paragraph 9 of its resolution 54/255,

Having further considered the information contained in the first report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,[5]

1. *Takes note* of the recommendations of the Joint Inspection Unit[1] and the comments of the Secretary-General and the Administrative Committee on Coordination thereon;[2]

2. *Reiterates* that the use of common services at Geneva should be one of many tools available to organizations and managers to obtain goods and services in the most efficient and effective manner;

3. *Encourages* the organizations concerned, in their continuing efforts further to expand areas of cooperative arrangements, to give priority to those services that lend themselves to common delivery using the criteria of efficiency, productivity and cost effectiveness and, where feasible, to take into account the recommendations contained in

---

[1] See A/55/856.

[2] A/55/856/Add.1.

[3] The Administrative Committee on Coordination was renamed the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination pursuant to Economic and Social Council decision 2001/321 of 24 October 2001.

[4] A/56/417/Rev.1.

[5] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 7* (A/56/7), chap. I, sect. E.14, para. 124 and chap. II, sect. A, paras. I.68 and VIII.97-VIII.103.

the report of the Unit,[1] bearing in mind also the distinct mandates, roles, tasks and rules of each individual participating organization;

4. *Welcomes* the comments and views contained in the relevant paragraphs of the first report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,[5] in particular regarding telecommunications and information technology services, conference services, printing and publishing, as well as general administration;

5. *Notes* the efforts made to date by the Geneva-based organizations of the United Nations system for the enhancement of common services, and encourages them to pursue, with a more structured approach, the improvement of existing common services and the development of new common approaches, within the framework of the Management Ownership Committee and the Task Force on Common Services and its working groups;

6. *Requests* the Secretary-General to encourage the Management Ownership Committee, when determining the scope and pace of implementation of common services arrangements at Geneva, to adopt streamlined consultation procedures that would promote timely agreement on which services should be delivered in common or jointly, with a view to the possible full launching of the plan of action for Geneva common services earlier than the targeted year of 2010;

7. *Invites* the Unit to continue to monitor progress in the development and consolidation of common services at Geneva, and at other duty stations where the United Nations system offices and agencies are established, and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its fifty-eighth session in the context of its annual report;

8. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-eighth session on the implementation of the present resolution.

97th plenary meeting
27 March 2002